

Tenth edition of the APREN Award recognizes young talents in renewables

- *The initiative distinguished the master's dissertations of Maria Inês Monteiro (University of Minho) and Giovanni Martins (FEUP) - awarding them, respectively, €4,000 and €2,000.*
- *The final decision was made by the jury, chaired by Jorge Vasconcelos and with the participation of several university professors and representatives from DGEG, R&D Nester and LNEG, and announced at an event at Culturgest.*

Lisbon, 15th April 2025 – The tenth edition of the [APREN Award](#), an initiative from [APREN – The Portuguese Renewable Energy Association](#), distinguished two master's dissertations on topics related to electricity from renewable sources. The awards ceremony took place on April 11th at Culturgest, in Lisbon.

This year, APREN decided to increase the values of both awards, which doubled compared to those awarded in 2024.

The first prize, worth €4,000, was awarded to the work “New electrodes for lithium-ion batteries with ‘thermal shutdown’ properties”, by Maria Inês Monteiro, from the University of Minho.

The second prize, worth €2,000, was awarded to the dissertation “Development and validation of an innovative hinged system for the conversion of wave energy in coastal structures”, by Giovanni Martins, from the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto.

After the opening of the event, the [European Shorewinner Project](#) was presented, which aims to create and develop a Community of Practice for offshore wind energy in southern Europe, promoting education and training through cooperation between five Centers of Vocational Excellence in Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece and Cyprus. This introduction was carried out by Teresa Nogueira (Porto Higher Institute of Engineering), Vanda Vasconcelos (Centre for Professional Training in Fisheries and the Sea) and Diogo Moreira (Viana do Castelo Polytechnic Institute).

Subsequently, a debate took place dedicated to the theme “The importance of sector training to meet European targets”. The conversation, moderated by Susana Serôdio, Head of Policy and Market Intelligence at APREN, was attended by Arnaldo Frade (Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Training Center for Energy Transition), Julieta Silva (Business Development Manager at Voltalia), Marta Paulino Branco (Business Development Manager Portugal at Ocean Winds) and Pedro Carvalho (Full Professor at Instituto Superior Técnico).

The awards were presented at the end of the event by Jorge Vasconcelos, President of the APREN Award Jury, who underlined the great quality of all the theses submitted to the competition. To highlight the submitted works and promote interaction and dialogue between the sector representatives present and the candidates, the event featured an exhibition of all the theses, which was available for viewing in the Culturgest Foyer.

This year, the APREN Award jury included the largest range of experts ever: Jorge Vasconcelos, from NEWES (President of the Jury); Bernardo Silva, from the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto; Lígia Pinto, from the University of Minho; Margarita Robaina, from the University of Aveiro; Miguel Centeno Brito, from the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon; Mónica Meireles, from the University Institute of Lisbon; Nuno Souza e Silva, from R&D Nester; Patrícia Fortes, from the Faculty of Science and Technology of NOVA University of Lisbon; Paulo Partidário, from the General Directorate of Energy and Geology; Pedro Carvalho, IST from the Higher Technical Institute; Pedro Horta, from the University of Évora; and Sofia Simões, from the National Laboratory of Energy and Geology.

Since 2015, APREN has distinguished the best master's and doctoral dissertations on the subject of renewable electricity, carried out in higher education institutions in Portugal. Over the last few years, several dozen academic theses in the area of renewables have been distinguished.

About APREN:



The Portuguese Renewable Energy Association (APREN) is a non-profit association founded in October 1988. Its mission is to coordinate and represent the common interests of its members, promoting renewables energies in the electricity field. APREN works together with official bodies and other similar entities, at national and international level, constituting an instrument of participation in energy and environmental policies through the use and valorization of natural resources for electricity production, namely in the fields of hydro, wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, biogas and urban solid waste.